

1487

C O M M E R C E

N O T A F I T

S U B J E C T

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1777



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COMMERCE

NOT A FIT

SUBJECT

FOR AN

EMBARGO.

BY

AN EMINENT BARRISTER,

MEMBER of the late PARLIAMENT, &c.

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TO THE
P U B L I C.

WE are happy in having
it in our Power to pre-
sent the Public with this Work.
It was written by a Man, no less
eminent for his Abilities, than
for his true Patriotism and Inte-
grity. Doubly happy shall we
be, if it prove of Service to
our Country. We are,

The Public's obliged

And obedient Servants,

J. FERRAR,
T. WALKER.

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C O M M E R C E

N O T A F I T

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WITHOUT expatiating on the good Policy, the Justice, or the Consequences of those Acts of Parliament, that have wrested from IRELAND, an old and an established (a) Manufacture, 'tis certain those Acts have left three of her Provinces, to subsist as they may, without the Advantage, of any considerable Manufacture: And it is as true, that the high

(a) The Woollen Manufacture.

high Excise, on the Beer and Ale of (b) IRELAND, is no small Discouragement, and that the Bounty, on the Export of Grain from (c) Great Britain, and the withholding an equal Bounty from IRELAND, operate, almost as a Prohibition to her Agriculture, universally.

It can hardly be denied, that the Inhabitants of those Provinces, still amounting,

(b) Forty Gallons of Irish Ale, exceeding the Value of Six Shillings, pays in IRELAND an Excise not short of Five Shillings and Three-pence; whereas the same Quantity of English or Scotch Ale imported to IRELAND pays, at the highest, but One Shilling and Three-pence.

(c) There was, 'till lately, no Bounty on the Export of Corn from IRELAND; and the high Bounty allowed in Great Britain enabled the Farmers of ENGLAND to undersell those of IRELAND, in every Market of IRELAND, while Things were in this State; and the late Bounty, so far inferior to that given in ENGLAND, hardly operates at all.

amounting, however thinned by these Causes, to about two Millions of Souls, stript of all the Advantages, of Manufactures and Agriculture, would have been pretty severely dealt with, tho' they had been allowed, without Restraint or Limitation, all the Benefits, that they could derive from grazing.

Let all those who have visited the Provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, and who can feel for the Distresses of the Sons of Men, say, what the Condition of these People hath been, even while their Grazing-Trade, was under no Restraints.

But they say, that, this only remaining, and poor Trade, has been taken from them, or very much narrowed; That a free Export, of their Provisions, has been prohibited, by frequent Embargoes; and is prohibited, at this Day, by an Embargo, singularly rigorous.

That

That the Grazier, who has fattened horned Cattle, can't sell them, for adequate Prices; and therefore, can't make Room, for lean Cattle, to succeed to their Pastures; and thus, the rearing, and the feeding Farmers, are alike distressed; while the Landlords of IRELAND, in general not the best able to forbear, are driven to the Alternative, of partaking immediately, in the general Distress, or of completing the Ruin of their Tenants, by compelling them, while they pay high Rents, to sell their Products at low Rates.

I propose to enquire, whether these Complaints are well founded.

The Lord Lieutenant, and Council of IRELAND, on the second of November, 1776, pursuant to his Majesty's royal Pleasure, signified by his Order in Council, of the twenty-fifth of October, 1776, issued a Proclamation,

clamation, “ directing, that, an Em-
 “ bargo should be, forthwith, laid,
 “ upon all Ships and Vessels, laden or
 “ to be laden, in any of the Ports of
 “ this Kingdom, with black Cattle
 “ and Hogs, Beef, Pork, Butter and
 “ Cheese, or any Sort of Provisions,
 “ (except Fish, Corn or Grain, of any
 “ Kind, or Pulse,) and that the said
 “ Embargo should continue ’till fur-
 “ ther Order. But the said Em-
 “ bargo should not extend to Ships
 “ or Vessels, bringing Cattle of any
 “ Kind, salted Beef, Pork, Bacon and
 “ Butter, from this Kingdom, into his
 “ Majesty’s Kingdom of Great Bri-
 “ tain, pursuant to the Liberty grant-
 “ ed for that Purpose by a late Act
 “ of Parliament; nor to any Ship or
 “ Vessel, that should be employed in
 “ carrying Provisions to any of his
 “ Majesty’s West-India Islands, or to
 “ any of his Majesty’s Colonies, in
 “ North-

“ North-America, (except the Colo-
 “ nies of New Hampshire, Massa-
 “ chufets Bay, &c.) or to his Majesty’s
 “ Forts, and Settlements, on the Coast
 “ of Africa, or to the Island of St.
 “ Helena : Provided, that the Owners
 “ of fuch Ships and Veffels fhould
 “ make Oath, on the Entry of fuch
 “ Ships and Veffels, of the due
 “ Deftination thereof, to the Place
 “ for which fuch Ships or Veffels
 “ fhall be fo entered, to clear out,
 “ as aforefaid, and give Security, by
 “ Bond, to the proper Officers of
 “ the Customs, at the Port at which
 “ fuch Ships and Veffels fhall enter
 “ and clear out, with two other able
 “ and fufficient Sureties, in treble
 “ the Value of the Cargo, for the Per-
 “ formance of the Conditions there-
 “ in fpecified, and thereby engage,
 “ that fuch Ships and Veffels fhall
 “ proceed under Convoy of one of his
 “ Majesty’s

“ Majesty’s Ships, and shall not desert
 “ their Convoy on the Voyage, and
 “ shall in twelve Months produce a
 “ Certificate of the Delivery of the
 “ Cargo at the destined Port; but the
 “ Embargo shall not extend to any
 “ Ship or Vessel employed in the
 “ King’s Service, or to those laden for
 “ the Use of the King’s Fleets or Ar-
 “ mies, &c.”

It is worthy of Observation, that
 the Exception in the Proclamation of
 “ Fish, Corn, or Grain, of any Kind,
 “ and of Pulse,” can have none, or,
 at best, a very trifling Operation; IRE-
 LAND having very little, if any, of
 these Commodities to export.

The Exception was probably insert-
 ed, lest it might be said that the Pro-
 clamations tended to repeal some Acts of
 Parliament, that had given some trifling
 Bounties on the export of these articles;
 and

and it was quite unnecessary to extend the Proclamation to Wool, the Export of this Commodity having been prohibited long before, except to the Wool Ports of ENGLAND.

But IRELAND has great Quantities of the Goods enumerated in the Proclamation. The Proclamation extends to every Thing she had to export (not before prohibited) from three out of four of her Provinces, the Hides of her horned Cattle only excepted ; a very scanty Object, indeed, for a free Trade !

This, I say, is the only Remnant of free Trade left by the Embargo to these Provinces, if to be limited to a few Markets, in all other Articles, does not deserve the Name of a free Trade.

If numerous Buyers enhance the Value, of vendible Commodities, every
Law

Law and every Order, that confines the Merchant, to a few Markets, deprives him of a Part of his Property ; and the fewer the Markets left open to him are, the greater his Loss must be. The Proclamation prohibits IRELAND to sell her Provisions to France, Spain, Portugal or Holland, or to their Settlements, or to Hamburgh or Bremen ; and prohibits those Nations consequently to come to IRELAND for her Provisions.

But the Proclamation, it may be said, allows the Irish Merchant or Grazier a pretty extensive Field for the Sale of his Provisions ; Great-Britain, the British West-India Islands, his Majesty's Forts on the Coast of Africa, and the Island of St. Helena.

But if the Trade of IRELAND, such as it is, is carried on chiefly by Commission ; if she has neither Capitals, Shipping,

Shipping, or Mariners to carry on her Trade (which Facts I fear cannot be disputed) the Embargo leaves upon her Hands her Provisions 'till the Buyers of one Country shall think fit to come for them ; and these, where they have no Rivals to fear, will come just when they please, and buy just on the Terms they please.

This is not all. If a British Merchant, not in the Service of Government, should judge it for his Advantage, or if it should be thought a hopeful Undertaking, to employ the few Ships belonging to IRELAND in carrying Provisions to the British West-India Islands, to the Forts on the Coast of Africa, or to the Island of St. Helena, the Embargo prohibits them to sail to any of these Destinations without a Convoy.

Here it might have occurred, that a Merchant could not command any
of

of his Majesty's Ships ; that a Convoy could not be had without an Order from the Admiralty ; and thus that it might happen that no Convoy could be attainable, 'till the Occasions of the Contractors with Government should be first supplied, and consequently that this might have tended to monopolize the poor Remnant of Trade left to three of the Provinces of IRELAND, not for the Benefit of the Merchants of ENGLAND, but of a few Contractors there ; in which Case, what the Fate of the Irish Merchant or Grazier might be, would not be a difficult Enquiry.

This Obligation to sail under Convoy, and to deliver the Cargo at the declared Port, precludes the Ship from slipping into any of her lately frequented Ports on the Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea.

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The Occasions of Government, and of the Merchants of ENGLAND also, demand only the large Ox Beef of IRELAND, not the Cow or smaller Ox Beef; of which latter Kinds there are very great Quantities in IRELAND, with which, before the Embargo took Place, the Shipping and Settlements of the greater Part of the trading Nations of Europe had been supplied; but now ENGLAND rejects them, and the Embargo says that no other Nation shall take them; and thus, very large Quantities of this small Beef lie unbought and uncalled for, to the probable Ruin of numerous decent and respectable Families; and these remaining Quantities of old Beef, by disabling the Owners of them to deal at all in new Beef, lessen very much the Value of this Commodity.

The Land-holders of IRELAND, who bought their Store Cattle before the
Embargo

Embargo was published in IRELAND, assert, with great Probability, that their Store Cattle of the Year 1776 cost them very near as much while they were lean, as they now can get for them in a fattened State.

The resident Landlords of IRELAND, and yet less, those who live abroad, and don't see the Calamities that reign here, will hardly be induced, even by the Pressures which their Tenants have suffered by the Embargo, to remit any Part of the high Rents which they had undertaken to pay, in Contemplation of the high Rates that Provisions had usually been sold at.

But there is yet a farther evil to be apprehended. The Merchants assert confidently that the French and other Nations, driven from IRELAND by the Embargo, have found their Way to Holstein, Jutland, and other North-

ern Countries, where numerous Herds abound, and have taught these People to salt, to pack, and to preserve their Beef, and have taken from them great Quantities of it, at Prices far inferior to those they had paid for Beef in IRELAND.

It is not easy to take from a Country an established Trade that it has been long in Possession of ; but the present Embargo is of a sufficient Efficacy to have already almost suspended the Provision Trade of IRELAND, and, if continued or repeated, must annihilate this Trade.

It is but an inferior Grievance that the People of IRELAND are prevented, by the Embargo, from taking Advantage of the present Conjunction, by sending their small Beef on foreign Bottoms to France, Spain, Portugal, and the Mediterranean ; which they might have done, as I am informed by Merchants

chants of Experience and Credit, at an Expence, by three Parts in four, or five in six, less than they could on British Bottoms ; and the Act of Navigation disqualifies foreign Ships to carry Irish Provisions to Great-Britain.

These I say are but Grievances of an inferior Class ; but what must become of the boasted late great Rise in the Rents of IRELAND, if the present Embargo shall be continued, or if Embargoes shall be repeated as often as Contractors may wish to be enriched at the Expence of the opulent Kingdom of IRELAND.

The Case surely demands the Attention of those in Authority, and the Attention of Parliament.

The Writer of this Essay has collected, from the printed Accounts of the Debates in the House of Commons, that
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the King's Servants, in the Law, of IRELAND, have declared, in pretty explicit Terms, that the subsisting Embargo is warranted by the Laws of the Land: He pretends only to state his Doubts on this Subject, that the Publick may not be left to rely wholly on the Authority of those learned Gentlemen, however respectable it may be.

Pretending not to go farther, he hopes, however remote from all the Opportunities of Information, and trusting only to a Remembrance, not recent, of the Subject, he may be justified, or at least excused, for propounding his Doubts. The Occasion is urgent. He sees daily the Distresses, and hears the Lamentations of his numerous Neighbours who suffer by the Embargo.

It may be proper to observe that the Embargo was not founded on an existing or apprehended Famine, or Scarcity.

ty. It seems to be founded on the meer Power of the Crown, to direct the Provision Trade of IRELAND into those Channels that are specify'd in the Proclamation, and so to continue it, indefinitely, at the Pleasure of the Crown ; and whether such a Power exists is surely a momentous Inquiry.

It is said that the same Sort of Embargo, in Terms, has been promulgated for ENGLAND or for Great-Britain.

I have not seen it ; but supposing it, I imagine, whether it extends expressly to the Provisions of IRELAND only, or whether, as well, to the Provisions of ENGLAND, the former only can be affected by it. First, no Market in Europe, I apprehend, can afford so high Prices for English Provisions as England herself ; That the Provisions of Great-Britain scarcely suffice
for

for her own Consumption ; And on this Ground an Act has passed in Great-Britain, which opens her Ports to Irish Provisions ; And for these Reasons, that the Provisions of ENGLAND, being not the Objects of an external Commerce, would not be exported in any considerable Quantities, whether there were, or were not, an Order of Council to prohibit the Exportation of them.

But, secondly, the Irish Embargo would not be sufficiently rigorous, if a new Prohibition did not meet the Irish Provisions, in Great-Britain ; should the Irish Provisions, on their Arrival in Britain, fall under the Protection of the Laws of ENGLAND, the Irish Merchant or Grazier might send them thence into France, Spain, Portugal, and to every other Market ; And thus the Irish Embargo alone would not be a perfect Prohibition.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, the English Embargo, supposing it in all Things similar to the Irish, has not yet stood the Test of the Laws, that I have heard of, in Westminster-Hall; nor can I think the Order itself sufficiently proves its own Authenticity; nor is it the Interest of the English Buyers to try the Validity of the supposed English Embargo, because without it the Irish Embargo would not be complete; much less is it the Interest of the British Consumer to impeach the Embargo; nor do I think it would be quite safe for Individuals or any Body of Men in Britain to attempt, by the Aid of an Embargo, to starve the English Butcher or the English Grazier, while the Great Courts of Justice at Westminster are open. To submit tamely to such a Measure seems to be a Kind of Obedience peculiar to IRELAND. A very small Portion of the Oppression suffered by the People of IRELAND

LAND

LAND from the Embargo of October 1776, felt from a like Embargo by the People of ENGLAND, would I imagine have very soon brought the Question into Westminster-Hall; And this leads to the meer legal Inquiry.

The Embargo is not justified by any positive or written Law; It must derive its Force, if it be valid, from the King's Prerogative.

Some Powers there are, which are given to the King by this Name.

First, it is essential to these Powers that they have been exercised by the Crown for Time out of Mind.

If, in any Instance, the Time of the first Exercise of the Power can be but ascertained, tho' threescore Years, or a Century should since have elapsed, this alone would suffice for its Condemnation.

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The now acknowledged Rights of the Crown, known by the Name of Prerogative, are as old as the Constitution itself. The authentic Original is presumed to be lost in the Ravages of Time.

Secondly, to be found in the Records of the unwritten Law in Westminster-Hall is a necessary Proof of its Authenticity ; and also that it has been acquiesced in ; neither condemned nor censured in Parliament.

Thirdly, it must be of a nature compatible with the acknowledged Rights of the People. Prerogatives were given, not meerly to aggrandize the King, but for the Good of the State.

The King by his Prerogative has the Right to declare War and to make Peace : He may by the same Right prorogue or dissolve a Parliament ; He may
create

create Peers of the Realm by Writ or by Patent ; He may pardon Offences. These are but a few Examples.

The Evidence of every just Prerogative is clear and decisive ; if otherwise, this alone decides against the assumed Claim.

Of what Antiquity is the Prerogative held out by the Embargo of the twenty-fifth of October 1776 ?

In what authentick Book or Record is it to be found ?

Let the present Condition of IRELAND decide on its salutary Qualities.

It has been already observed that Famine or Scarcity did not give Rise to it.

Some Years ago his Majesty, in Consequence of an uncommon Dearth of
Corn

Corn (a Scarcity that threatened Great-Britain with a Famine) at a Time by some Months prior to the then approaching Session, prohibited for the intermediate Time the Exportation of Corn ; but this Step was not taken 'till Blood was spilled ; 'till the Outrages of the People, from an Apprehension of Dearth, became very alarming. A special Commission, out of the ordinary Course, was issued, if I don't forget, to try many Persons for Murders committed in the Struggles for Corn ; and some, if I don't mistake, were convicted and executed for these Murders.

Here the Law of Necessity, made plain by the awful Progress of Justice thro' the Land, at an unusual Season, called upon the Sovereign to restore Order, and to save the People ; and yet some very respectable Men thought it might be necessary, or at least expedient,

ent, to apply for a Law to indemnify those who had enforced the Prohibition. The Result was, that a Law passed to give the Power, whether an enacting or a declaratory Law I won't take upon me to say ; I speak from Memory only.

But I may be allowed to say, that to make, by a declaratory Law, Trade, in any Instance, or on any Occasion, the Subject of an Embargo, would be a perilous Experiment ; nor can I avoid to express my Doubt touching the Propriety of giving to this seasonable Exertion of Power, the Name of an Embargo, if this Name was given to it.

To define this Prerogative as allowed by the unwritten or common Law of ENGLAND, with an exact Precision, does not seem to be an easy Task ; it seems to be one of the least ascertained

tained of the acknowledged Rights of the Crown, known by the Name of Prerogative.

In Time of War or public Danger, the King may embargo the Shipping of the Kingdom, first, that the Ships and Mariners may be employed for Defence or to annoy the Enemy ; and secondly, that the Enemy may not know the State of the Kingdom.

For these Purposes the Embargo ought to be general, except only that it might not be expedient to extend it to the Ships or Mariners of friendly, or even to those of neutral Powers ; nor will I say that it may not admit of other Exceptions necessary for the Occasions of the State ; such as, if the Storm should move from the South, it might not be expedient to shut up the northern Ports ; and so possibly, in
other

other Instances, to promote, the more effectually, the general End; but from the Moment the Embargo might be perverted to jobbing Purposes, it would, I cannot but think, cease to be under the Protection of the Laws.

An Embargo really intended for Defence and Secrecy, or to annoy an Enemy, must necessarily be very extensive, and consequently is an Evil that cures itself; it cannot be of a long Duration. A King can no more subsist without a Revenue than his Subjects without Trade.

The Embargo in Question leaves open all the Ports: All Ships may come in, all exciseable and customable Goods are received; the Revenue, lessened by the Restraint on the export Trade, may be (probably will be) supplied by Loans, that is, at the
Expence

Expenditure of the Country oppressed by the Embargo.

It has already continued in Force for more than a Year (and may, with as good Reason, be continued for seven) on all the export Trade of more than three of the Provinces of IRELAND, Fish, Corn, Hides and Pulse only excepted; and however certain the Ruin of a Country so restrained must be, the King's Revenue may not suffer by the Restraint, 'till the Poverty consequential to it shall disable the Nation to import exciseable or customable Goods, or to borrow for the Use of the Crown.

Are these Consequences that may be expected from the Exercise of a just Prerogative?

As the Crown may embargo, under proper Restrictions, the Shipping of
C the

the Kingdom, so it may be said, that the Crown may prohibit the Subject from giving Aid or Support of any Kind to an Enemy.

But, altho' this should be granted, 'tis a very different Thing to prohibit its Trade with undutiful Subjects, or with the Subjects of a State at War with Great-Britain.

In the last War but one with Spain this was done, if I don't forget, by Act of Parliament, not by the King's Proclamation.

Tho' I feel it as the Duty of a good Subject, not only to admit, but also to wish to support the just Rights of the Crown, I have always thought it an unpardonable Flattery to contend, as on Behalf of the Crown, for new and unconstitutional Powers.

Would

Would it conduce to the Interest of Britain to prohibit her Subjects to send her Woollen Manufactures, her Shoes, her Linens, or Coals to the Subjects of a State engaged in War with her ; or her Provisions, if these (as the Case of IRELAND is) were her staple or principal Commodities ; Men stand as much in Need of Clothes and Firing, as of Food.

I can hardly imagine that those who advised the Embargo of October, 1776, had any Fears that the Provisions of IRELAND might be carried to the rebellious Colonies of North-America ; they did not want them ; there was besides an Act of Parliament that prohibited every commercial Intercourse with those Colonies.

But, tho' it should be admitted that the King might prohibit his Subjects of

IRELAND to feed his undutiful Subjects in North America, would it therefore follow that his Majesty might, by an Embargo, prevent his Irish Subjects from sending their Provisions to France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, or to other Countries, not at War with Great-Britain, because possibly those Goods might go from those other Countries to the American Provinces.

These surely, if any such there are, are Prerogatives of a very late Date, Prerogatives of which there is no other Evidence, that I know of, but from the Proclamations that have promulgated them, and from the Bonds extorted by the Custom-House Officers of IRELAND in Execution of them.

Here I cannot but repeat, that Monopoly is plainly effected by the Embargo,

go, (altho', as I must presume and believe, his Majesty did not intend it) and refer my Readers to one of Lord Coke's Reports, the Eleventh if I don't forget, where it is laid down, if my Memory serves me, that the King cannot grant by Patent the sole Exercise of a Trade to any particular Person, as that would be a Monopoly, and consequently detrimental to the Liberty of the Subject in the free Exercise of Trade; and therefore every such Grant is void.

If such a Grant to one Man would be unlawful, it would be equally so, tho' it were to ten, or to fifty, or five thousand, or to one or more of the Cities of England in Exclusion of the rest.

Does it not follow that, to grant the export Trade of England, tho' it should be done in the Form of an Embargo, to
one

one or to more Cities, in Exclusion of the Rest, would be unlawful?

And here may I take the Liberty to say, that the unwritten or common Law of ENGLAND, is as much the Birthright of the Subjects of IRELAND, as it is the Birthright of Englishmen.

I sincerely wish that the just Value of this Inheritance was sufficiently attended to, and that the Rights, flowing from it, were as well known in IRELAND as they are in ENGLAND.

But if IRELAND is intitled to the Protection of the unwritten or common Law of ENGLAND, every Principle that reprobates Monopoly in ENGLAND, reprobates it equally in IRELAND.

Every

Every Principle of the English Law, that reprobates a Monopoly of any Part of the extensive and great Commerce of ENGLAND, for IRELAND, reprobates equally a Monopoly of the poor wretched Remnant of the Trade of three of the Provinces of IRELAND, and I may say, of a great Part of the fourth, for ENGLAND, or for some Folks there ; and what cannot be done directly, or in Terms, cannot be done by Means, however complicated or delusive.

No Englishman of a liberal Mind, none who can feel for the Distresses of a Sister Nation, whose Lamentations may be almost heard on the East-side of St. George's Channel, will be offended at any Thing I have said.

The British Dominions are all alike exempted by the Laws, from the Scourge of unlawful Prerogative.

It

It will be recollected on what flight Grounds Tunnage and Poundage and Ship Money were once claimed in England, on what grounds a dispensing Power: and here I would ask whether every Argument that may be employed against IRELAND, in Support of the Embargo of the twenty-fifth of October 1776, may not, as well, prove that an Embargo of the same Import, on all or any of the Exports of Britain, may be defended. It is not a Matter of Indifference to Englishmen to see such an Embargo rigourously executed, I may say, at their Door; nay, if I am rightly informed, to hear the Claim, of such a Right, made by an English Proclamation, tho' no present Oppression is felt by them from it.

The general Law decrees that British Subjects, except in a few Cases prohibited by positive Laws, may carry
their

their Goods to any Quarter of the Globe, where they may hope to find the best Market.

Is it consistent with this Licence to compel, by the Law of Prerogative, British Subjects (thus free by the general Law) to carry their Goods to one or to a few Markets only ; to compel them to enter into Bonds of Penalties equal to treble the Value of their Cargoes, with sufficient Sureties also, not to go to any other ; to bind them by a solemn Oath to perform this Engagement ; not to suffer them to depart 'till all this is done ; and to force them, whether they chuse it or not, after all these Requisites have been performed, to wait for a Convoy, which they shall not depart from, 'till they arrive at the Port declared for ?

Where

Where are these Prerogatives to be found?

Tunnage and Poundage were claimed, if I mistake not, because the King was called the Guardian of the Ports of ENGLAND; Ship-money, because it was one of the great Duties of Royalty to clear the Seas of Enemies and Pirates; and a dispensing Power, because the King might grant Pardons to Individuals.

Whether the loose, unconnected *Dicta* of Judges, scattered in a few Law Books, have given Rise to the present, and some former Embargoes of the same Tenour, I won't take upon me to say; or, if so, whether the Patrons of Ship-money, a dispensing Power, or of Tonnage and Poundage, were not equally well supported in their Opinions.

But

But certainly British Subjects may be permitted to ask, on what Foundation Prerogatives of so great, so extensive and pernicious an Operation, as those proclaimed in Ireland on the Second of November, 1776, are supported.

British Subjects claim the Protection of the Laws as a Right; and we may conclude his Majesty, if he sees that the Embargo we suffer under is condemned by the Laws, will recall it.

I have not yet heard that any one of the late heavy Burthens that have been laid upon us is intended to be taken off, or lessened.

But we ought to conclude that his Majesty did not know our Condition when the Embargo of the 25th of October,

October, 1776, was superadded to the Burthens and Restraints we then lay under, and also, that he did not see the rigourous Effects that were likely to flow from this Measure.

Without considering the meer legal Question, If his Majesty shall see that the Embargo is galling and oppressive, may we not rely on the Beneficence of our Sovereign; and conclude that he will deliver his faithful Subjects of Ireland, very ill able to bear new Burthens or new Restraints, from the present Embargo?

F I N I S.

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